

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-000285/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Nikolas Farantouris (The Left)
(22 January 2025)

Subject: Forthcoming visit of the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

According to the Commission's official programme ⁽¹⁾, Kaja Kallas, Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, will visit Türkiye on Friday 24 January and will hold meetings with Hakan Fidan, the Turkish Foreign Minister, and Numan Kurtulmuş, Speaker of the Turkish National Assembly. In view of Türkiye's continuous challenges to and violations of the sovereign rights of Greece and Cyprus, the signing of the illegal agreement between Türkiye and Libya that violates the International Law of the Sea and the statements by the Turkish Government ⁽²⁾ (despite the subsequent denials ⁽³⁾) concerning advanced negotiations on the signing of another memorandum of understanding with the Syrian transitional regime for the designation of an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) between the two countries:

1. Does the VP/HR intend to put as a matter of urgency to the Turkish Government the necessary precondition of full respect for the International Law of the Sea and the sovereign rights of Greece and Cyprus?
2. Does she intend to stress, once more, the invalidity of the agreement between Türkiye and Libya that violates the International Law of the Sea and the sovereign rights of Greece and Cyprus?
3. Does the VP/HR plan to ask for explanations for Türkiye's threats against Greece regarding Greece's compliance with its obligation to complete its maritime spatial planning under Directive 2014/89/EU ⁽⁴⁾?

Submitted: 22.1.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(20 March 2025)

The High Representative/Vice-President regularly emphasises these aspects in her exchanges with her Turkish counterpart.

Delimitation of the continental shelf and exclusive economic zones should be addressed through dialogue and negotiations in good faith, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ⁽¹⁾, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice.

The European Council conclusions of 12 December 2019 ⁽²⁾ clearly stated that the Türkiye-Libya memorandum of understanding on the delimitation of maritime jurisdictions in the Mediterranean Sea infringes upon the sovereign rights of third states, does not comply with the Law of the Sea and cannot produce any legal consequences for third states.

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye.

In this context, the EU continues to expect Türkiye to respect the sovereignty and the sovereign rights of all Member States and to unequivocally commit to and promote good neighbourly relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/about/organisation/college-commissioners/calendar-items-president-and-commissioners_en?f%5B0%5D=commissioner_dynamic_commissioner_dynamic%3Ahttp%3A//publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/political-leader/COM_00006A32DF03&f%5B1%5D=ewcms_calendar_status%3Apast&f%5B2%5D=ewcms_calendar_status%3Aupcoming

² <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-12-24/turkey-plans-to-start-maritime-agreement-negotiations-with-syria>

³ <https://www.tanea.gr/2025/01/15/politics/i-tourkia-crden-exei-prothesi-cma-oriothetisei-aoz-me-ti-syria-online/>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014L0089>

⁽¹⁾ https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/41768/12-euco-final-conclusions-en.pdf>